

Further range extensions and noteworthy records for Venezuelan birds

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The avifauna of Venezuela is relatively well known thanks to the efforts of William H. Phelps and William H. Phelps Jr. and their collaborators (e.g. Phelps & Phelps 1958, 1963). Their work created the largest ornithological collection in Latin America and culminated in the production of the first modern field guide to a South American avifauna (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). This field guide provoked further study of the Venezuelan avifauna and encouraged amateur ornithologists to visit the country. Since the publication of the guide, a number of articles have provided new information on range extensions within Venezuela (e.g. Lentino 1978, Lentino *et al.* 1984, Boesman 1998, Kirwan & Sharpe 1999, Hilty 1999), whilst others have documented the avifauna of particular sites (e.g. Stiles 1984, Lentino & Goodwin 1993, Ascanio & Rodríguez 1995, Zimmer & Hilty 1997). A revised edition of the field guide (Phelps & Meyer de Schauensee 1994) incorporated some of this information.

The information reported here was collected between 1985 and 1999 over the whole of Venezuela, except for Amazonas State, and includes geographical range extensions, new altitudinal data and new information on habitat associations. Detailed information is given for 31 species, with 18 additional species covered more briefly at the end of the article. Most of the records simply reflect a more complete knowledge of the geographic range of the species concerned. In part this is due to increased visitation to areas which were not well known previously, such as the northern Andes of Trujillo and Lara. However, some new information apparently reflects the expansion of species into recently created habitats, due to vegetation change, for example the spread of the Magpie Tanager *Cissops leveriana* due to deforestation. Other records refer to trans-Andean movements, particularly across the Mérida Andes via lower passes. New records are provided for five boreal migrants whilst further information is given on two species of conservation concern.

Initials in parentheses refer to the authors and accompanying observers listed in the Acknowledgements.

WHISTLING HERON *Syrigma sibilatrix*

In Venezuela, this species has not been recorded west of Barinas and never above 500 m (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). An adult was seen at Laguna Miraflores (2,300 m) on the Mérida - La Azulita road, Mérida on 21 and 22 January 1998 (DAS, CJS). The altitude and location along a pass linking the Río Chama valley with Lake Maracaibo suggest that this individual was in transit between the llanos and the Lake Maracaibo Basin, an area for which there are no records of this species. A search of the watershed may provide further interesting records.

CAPPED HERON *Pilherodius pileatus*

This species has not been recorded above 500 m (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). An adult was seen at Laguna Miraflores (2,300 m) on the Mérida - La Azulita road, Mérida on 21 and 22 January 1998 (DAS, CJS). As with the previous species, the altitude and location may indicate movement between the llanos and the Lake Maracaibo Basin.

FASCIATED TIGER-HERON *Tigrisoma fasciatum*

This species has been recorded in the Venezuelan Andes from north-west Zulia and there are single sight records from the foothills of Barinas at Barinitas (SLH *in litt.*) and Táchira (Boesman 1998). We present a further, much higher record of an adult seen in the Providencia area on the Río Quinimari (1,200 m), El Tamá National Park, Táchira on 28 May 1996 (GAR).

ZIGZAG HERON *Zebrilus undulatus*

This Amazonian heron has been recorded only from south of the Orinoco and from the delta region of Monagas and Delta Amacuro (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) with a recently discovered population near El Baúl, Cojedes (K.J. Zimmer and D. Wolf in Zimmer & Hilty 1997). A small population has been observed at Hato El Cedral, Apure since August 1996. The first record was a bird heard and tape-recorded at the Río Caicara in August 1996 (GAR). This was followed by a sighting of two juveniles in dense, seasonally-flooded gallery forest on the north bank of the Río Matiyure on 2 January 1998 (DAE, William E. Davis, John Kritcher) some 10-15 km from the first sighting. During 1998, one adult and one immature were regularly seen at the latter site and another adult close by in similar habitat on the south bank (DAE, GAR, CJS). On 21 February 1999, three adults were seen along the Río Matiyure (MB, RS, CJS and several other observers) and it appears that at least five individuals (three adults and two immatures) are now regularly observed along this river. The ranch now appears to hold a sizeable population, based on vocalisations (DAE). It is unclear whether this shy heron had previously remained undetected at the Hato or whether the current population represents a recent colonisation. Local inhabitants (Ramón Arbuja, pers. comm. to CJS, 1998) state that the species formerly occurred on the ranch some sixty years ago, but that it has been absent until recently. This species is considered Near Threatened internationally (IUCN 1996), but for Venezuela we concur with the decision to regard it as Insufficiently Known (Rodríguez & Rojas-Suarez 1999), since large extensions of known habitat are already protected in Venezuela.

BOAT-BILLED HERON *Cochlearius cochlearius*

A skull was found at Laguna de Mucubají (3,500 m), Mérida on 15 August 1997 (CJS) and was retained by personnel of the National Institute of Parks (INPARQUES). In Venezuela, all previous records are below 300 m (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) except for a specimen obtained at San Jacinto (1,450 m), Mérida (Phelps &

Phelps 1958), although Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) note that it has occurred in the páramo zone. In Colombia it has been known to wander to 2,600 m (Hilty & Brown 1986).

SLENDER-BILLED KITE *Helicolestes hamatus*

A single adult was seen perched atop a dead branch of a tree in swamp forest near Puerto Concha, Ciénagas del Catatumbo National Park, Zulia on 6 September 1999 (DAE, JdH) and nine adults and a juvenile were seen at the same place on 1 February 2000 (DAE, AG). This swamp-forest species was distinguished from the Snail Kite *Rothramus sociabilis*, which is common and widespread in open marshes, by the yellow eye, bulkier body and shorter tail. This park is located in the southern section of Lake Maracaibo and the main habitat is swamp forest and mangroves. These reports represent a 200 km north-westerly range extension and the first record for the Maracaibo Basin (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

This species has previously been documented by a specimen from Margarita Island and sight records from other islands as well as Aragua and Miranda (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). It appears to be a frequent winter resident throughout northern Venezuela, especially on the coast and in the Apure llanos where it feeds on shorebirds and ducks. We have records from Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Bolívar, Cojedes, Distrito Federal, Mérida and Miranda. The first birds pass through the Coastal Cordillera (e.g. El Avila, Distrito Federal; Rancho Grande Biological Station, Aragua) and Andes (e.g. Laguna de Mucubají, Mérida) in October and the last birds linger in the llanos into April. Earliest records are on 30 September from Rancho Grande Biological Station (CJS) and latest on 18 April from the Orinoco at Caicara, Bolívar (Peter Boesman, *in litt.*).

GREY-BREASTED CRAKE *Laterallus exilis*

Recorded from Mérida, Falcón, Portuguesa, Miranda and Monagas (Lentino *et al.* 1984, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978), but the distribution of this species is incompletely known. A new record is of an individual at Hato El Cedral in March 1994 (DAE). The bird was seen well from a distance of 1.5 m, walking along the bank of a creek choked with Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* and feeding amongst these plants. The presence of Yellow-breasted Crake *Porzana flaviventer* at Hato El Cedral has been mentioned previously (Kirwan & Sharpe 1999) and it is likely that the ranch holds significant populations of Rallidae whose distributions are known incompletely at present.

RUSTY-FLANKED CRAKE *Laterallus levraudi*

This Venezuelan endemic is known from coastal Falcón, Yaracuy, Carabobo and Miranda as well as from an artificial pond at 1,400 m in Yacambú National Park, Lara

(Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Boesman 1997). In the last ten years it has been recorded from seven sites in Falcón and Carabobo, where the total population is estimated to be 40-100 pairs (Boesman 1997). A new record is of a bird further south at Boconoito (400 m), Barinas in the foothills of the eastern slope of the Andes in February 1998 (DAE, JdH, JS). The bird was feeding at the edge of tall, emergent cane at a small pool some 6-8 m diameter. This species is considered Vulnerable (IUCN 1996, Rodríguez & Rojas-Suarez 1999), although with increased search effort several new sites have been discovered in recent years (see Boesman 1998). It is probable that deforestation along the eastern flank of the Andes, together with the construction of dykes and pools for watering cattle, has allowed the species to spread southwards through Falcón, Yaracuy and Barinas. Records are to be expected for Portuguesa. The total population is likely to be much higher than that known at present and a thorough census of populations at known and potential sites should now be carried out during May - August when the species is most vocal (Boesman 1997), together with an analysis of ecological requirements in order that conservation action can be taken.

PAINT-BILLED CRAKE *Neocrex erythrops*

This widespread but local species has not been previously found above 1,000 m (Friedmann & Smith 1950; Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978); furthermore there appear to be very few records in Venezuela south of the Orinoco. A single bird was found by soldiers at the well-lit Luepa Fort (1,400 m) along the main Troncal 10 road in the Gran Sabana, Canaima National Park, Bolivar on a rainy evening on 7 July 1997 and photographed (Hugo Arnal, CJS). It is probable that this bird was migrating or dispersing, since influxes are recorded in August in Caicara, Monagas (Friedmann & Smith 1950) and it has also been found at lighted windows at Rancho Grande (1,000 m), Aragua in May and June (Schäfer & Phelps 1954). Specimens obtained at well-lit buildings in Paramaribo, Surinam in July and February were also thought to be migrants (Haverschmidt & Mees 1994). Vagrancy in this species has been documented elsewhere (Arnold 1978, Blem 1980, Remsen & Parker 1990).

SUNGREBE *Heliornis fulica*

This lowland species is known north of the Orinoco from the Río Meta, Apure and Caicara, Monagas (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). An unusual record is of a freshly dead bird found at Laguna de Mucubají (3,500 m) at the head of the Santo Domingo valley, Mérida in October 1994 (DAE). The corpse was retrieved by park guards and identified by DAE. It was subsequently stuffed and mounted by personnel from the National Institute of Parks (INPARQUES). The presence of this species at such high altitude is extraordinary, even in the light of the variety of lowland species found at unusually high altitudes in the Santo Domingo valley, and is probably attributable to a bird expiring whilst moving between watersheds on either side of the Andes. However, the nearest known populations west of the site at which the corpse was collected are 160 km away in eastern Colombia.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

This species has been recorded as a boreal winter resident from the Caribbean islands of Los Roques, La Orchila and Margarita and the coast in Zulia and Aragua (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). The first inland record is of three in winter plumage at wetlands at Hato El Cedral, Apure, in February 1992 (DAE, Richard French). The black axillary patch was clearly visible.

ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET *Brotogeris jugularis*

This species is restricted to the north of the Orinoco, where it has been collected as far east as Guárico (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). Three were observed feeding in a large tree at Parque Cachamay, Puerto Ordaz, Bolívar in January 1998 (DAE), the most easterly record for this species. It is possible that these were escaped cage birds or that deforestation has allowed this species to spread over secondary habitats along the southern bank of the Orinoco.

RUSTY-FACED PARROT *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*

This high-altitude parrot is known from Páramo de Tamá, Táchira (*H. a. amazonina*) and from north Táchira to Mérida (*H. a. theresae*) (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). A new record is of four flying at Sector El Campamento (2,170-2,600 m) along the north flank of Guaramacal National Park, Trujillo in January 1999 (DAE) and six at the same place in February 1999 (DAE, SLH). The birds flew past at a distance of 25 m and the scarlet shoulders, copper-coloured head and relatively short tail (in comparison with *Amazona* sp.) were noted. This is a range extension of 40 km. Given that this species is considered Endangered (Desenne & Strahl 1994, IUCN 1996, Rodríguez & Rojas-Suarez 1999), the current record is noteworthy, as it indicates that the range and available habitat are slightly greater than previously thought.

LITTLE NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus parvulus*

In Venezuela this species has been recorded from Zulia, the north-central states of Aragua, Distrito Federal and Miranda and northern Bolívar (Schwartz 1968, Phelps and Phelps 1958). A bird was captured at night at Hato Piñero (200 m), Cojedes in February 1984 (SLH, RSR) and it was observed and tape-recorded there on several occasions in 1989 and 1990 (Davis Finch, David Fisher & GAR). It has also been tape-recorded once at Hato El Frio (100 m), Apure in February 1995 (DAE) and once at Hato El Cedral (100 m), Apure in January 1998 (GAR). In addition, there is apparently a specimen record from San Camilo in western Apure (SLH *in litt.*). These records extend the species' known range into the llanos and suggest that the range of the largely Venezuela subspecies *heterurus* is probably contiguous, rather than disjunct as shown in Cleere & Nursey (1998). In our experience, this species is not found in open, grassy country in the llanos, but prefers gallery forest edge as described by Schwartz (1968).

GORGATED WOODSTAR *Acestrura heliodor*

This species has been recorded locally from 2,200 to 3,000 m in Mérida (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). A female was observed at a much lower altitude in subtropical forest along the San Isidro Tunnel trail at 1,500 m on the eastern slope of the Andes in Barinas on 28 November 1995 (RS, GAR). The bird was perched on a low branch for several minutes, which allowed a good view through a telescope of its distinguishing rufous rump (RS, GAR). This species had not previously been recorded from the eastern slope of the Mérida Andes (Phelps & Phelps 1958, SLH *in litt.*).

VIOLACEOUS TROGON *Trogon violaceus*

This species is known from north of the Orinoco only from the Andes in Zulia, Táchira, Mérida and Barinas and there is a specimen from northern Cojedes (Phelps & Phelps 1958, Lentino 1978, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). One male was seen and tape-recorded in a forest clearing in the Cuenca Media del Río Caripe (245 m), Monagas (DAE, IJCF, GPC) on 12 December 1996. In addition, this species is quite common at Caño Colorado, Monagas (Peter Boesman *in litt.*). These Monagas records represent a northerly range extension of 180 km from the nearest records south of the Orinoco.

RINGED WOODPECKER *Celeus torquatus*

This species has previously been reported north of the Orinoco only in Jobure, Delta Amacuro (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) and in Caño Colorado, Monagas (Boesman 1995). Two birds were seen and tape-recorded in humid tropical forest in the Cuenca Media del Río Caripe (245 m), Monagas (DAE, IJCF, GPC) on 15 December 1996. This represents the most northerly record of this species and suggests that its distribution extends into the lowlands of south-east Sucre.

WHITE-BROWED ANTBIRD *Myrmoborus leucophrys*

A male was seen and tape-recorded near the Yacambú Dam (1,100 m) on the eastern slopes of Yacambú National Park, Lara on 1 June 1999 (DAE, RSR, MA and several other observers). This is the most northerly record, with the nearest previous record in Barinas (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978), an extension of 110 km.

BLACK-CHINNED ANTBIRD *Hypocnemoides melanopogon*

This species is known north of the Orinoco from Río Zuata, Guárico and the Delta Amacuro (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) and Caño Colorado, Monagas (Boesman 1995). We present a more northerly record of a male seen and tape-recorded in Caño Ajíes, Sucre on 7 August 1998 (GAR).

NORTHERN WHITE-CROWNED TAPACULO *Scytalopus atratus*

This species is known from the Sierra de Perijá in north-west Zulia and in the eastern Andes in south-west Táchira (Phelps and Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee &

Phelps 1978), both mountain ranges isolated from the rest of the Venezuelan Andes by dry lowlands. A significant range extension is an individual observed and tape-recorded at the San Isidro Tunnel (1,500 m) on the eastern slope of the Andes on 15 January 1991 (SLH, Kevin J. Zimmer). The species was also seen and tape-recorded at the same locality on 22 December 1992 (Jeff Blincow *in litt.*), during February 1997 (GAR) and again in February 1998 (DAE, SLH). The plumage was similar to Rufous-vented Tapaculo *Scytalopus femoralis* except for the presence of a prominent white crown patch (GAR). We follow Krabbe & Schulenberg (1997) in treating *nigricans*, the taxon to which these records refer, as a subspecies of *S. atratus* rather than *S. femoralis* (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). These records represent a new population for the Mérida Andes and a range extension of c. 200 km.

TAWNY-RUMPED TYRANULET *Phyllomyias uropygialis*

In Venezuela, this species has only been recorded at Páramo La Negra (3,100 m) in west Mérida (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). However, since January 1989 individuals have been observed throughout the year in the grounds of the Hotel Los Frailes at 2,900 m at the head of the Santo Domingo valley in north-east Mérida (DAE, SLH, GAR and many other observers).

LARGE-HEADED FLATBILL *Ramphotrigon megalcephala*

This bamboo specialist exhibits a disjunct distribution in South America with major populations in south-east Brazil (and adjacent Paraguay and Argentina), south-western and north-western Amazonia as well as smaller outlying populations in north-west Colombia and north-west Venezuela (Ridgely & Tudor 1994). Venezuelan records are from the region of Yaracuy, Barinas and Apure (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). We present sight records from the coastal foothills on the north slope of the Coastal Cordillera in Henri Pittier National Park, Aragua. An individual was seen in bamboo at La Trilla (60m), near Turiamo in January 1985 (A. Altman, K. Altman and C. Parrish). There were several subsequent observations (SLH *in litt.*), including an individual found in bamboo in the same place on 18 November 1994 (Simon Boyes, GAR). Another was located 18 km east in the same type of habitat at 300 m elevation near Choroni in January 1995 (GAR). This population appears to be separated by 80 km from the closest known populations of Yaracuy by the mountains of the Coastal Cordillera. The species had not previously been reported from the Henri Pittier National Park (Lentino & Goodwin 1993).

VENEZUELAN FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus venezuelensis*

Specimens of this species have been obtained along the Caribbean coast from west Zulia to the Distrito Federal as well as from Margarita Island and north-east Bolívar (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Lentino *et al.* 1984). Since 1993, it has also been observed and tape-recorded at various sites within Hato El Cedral, Apure, a range extension of 250 km from the nearest recorded population in coastal Venezuela (GAR, CJS, Paul Coopmans *in litt.*). In addition one was seen in

gallery forest edge along the Caño Guaritico at Hato El Frio on 28 January 1995 (KW, CJS and several other observers) and another at the lodge at the same ranch on 21 November 1995 (EM, CJS and several other observers). In all cases, this was noted as a rather large *Myiarchus*, showing no rufous on the tail from below and the head was concolourous with the mantle. The call, heard on all occasions and tape-recorded twice, was a repeated, plaintive "wheeer" with some variations, reminiscent of the call of Dusky-capped Flycatcher *M. tuberculifer*. In the low llanos of central Apure it appears to be an uncommon resident alongside three other congenetics (Ascanio & Rodríguez 1996). It inhabits gallery forest and 'matas' (groups of trees in drier areas which are not seasonally flooded). The Short-crested Flycatcher *M. ferox* favours matas as well as the more humid patches of gallery forest and its presence is verified by tape-recordings (GAR), whilst the Brown-crested *M. tyrannulus* is found in drier gallery forest and scrub. The Dusky-capped Flycatcher *M. tuberculifer*, the least common of the four, prefers more mesic habitats and occurs here in semi-humid gallery forest.

TRINIDAD EUPHONIA *Euphonia trinitatis*

This species has been recorded mostly below 600 m (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978; Ridgely & Tudor 1989), but has occurred as high as 850 m (Schäfer & Phelps 1954). However it has been observed in Parque Vinicio Adames (1,150 m), on the south-west edge of Caracas in June 1995 and a pair were seen visiting a nest in a tree in Caracas Botanical Garden (900 m) during October 1998 (GAR). One was singing regularly during August and September 1999 at 1,450 m in San Antonio de los Altos, Miranda (GAR).

GOLDEN-CROWNED TANAGER *Iridosornis rufivertex*

This species is distributed locally through Andean temperate forests from northern Peru north to extreme south-west Venezuela (Ridgely & Tudor 1989). In Venezuela, it has been previously recorded only from the Páramo de Tamá close to or at the tree-line (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). An important and very unusual new record is of two birds with a mixed species flock in cloud forest at 2,500 m along the Pico Humboldt trail in central Mérida on 6 July 1996 (GAR, Ellen Shaughnessy and five other observers). The birds were observed at close quarters in good light under which conditions confusion with other species is unlikely. This record is unusual because the species has previously not been found north of the Táchira Depression and also because of the low altitude of the sighting. We therefore suggest treating it as hypothetical until photographs, sound recordings or a specimen can be obtained. This would be the most northerly record of a bird some 200 km outside its known range.

GLAUCOUS TANAGER *Thraupis glaucocolpa*

This species has been previously recorded from the length of the Caribbean coast and as far inland as south Guárico (Phelps & Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee &

Phelps 1978). Actually it is fairly common at several sites in Apure and probably in suitable habitat throughout the state, a south-easterly extension to the known distribution of 150-200 km. It can readily be observed at *matas* in Hato El Cedral and Hato El Frio (DAE, GAR, CJS).

MAGPIE TANAGER *Cissopis leveriana*

This species has been previously recorded as far north as the Andes of Mérida and Barinas (Phelps and Phelps 1963, Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978; Ridgely & Tudor 1989). We present new records from 40-80 km further north on the eastern slopes of the Andes as follows. One in a clearing along the Boconó - Guanare, road, Trujillo in February 1998 (DAE, JdH, JS) and another on the Sanare - Guanare road (1,000 m), Lara on 1 June 1999 (DAE, RSR, MA and several other observers). The increasing deforestation of the foothills of the eastern slope of the Andes has almost certainly aided the spread of secondary forest and edge species like this one.

SOOTY GRASSQUIT *Tiaris fuliginosa*

This locally distributed species was previously known from the Sierra de Perijá in Zulia, the Coastal Cordillera and Cerro Roraima in Bolívar (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978). There are also specimen records from Cabudare, Lara and Calderas, Barinas in the Andes (SLH *in litt.*). A new record for the Andes is of a male moving through bamboo (*Chusquea* sp.) at Sector El Campamento (2,300 m), Guaramacal National Park, Trujillo in February 1998 (DAE, JdH, JS). This is the highest altitude at which the species has been recorded in Venezuela (SLH *in litt.*).

LINED SEEDEATER *Sporophila lineola*

This austral migrant has been recorded in Venezuela to 500 m (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) and in South America to 1,200 m (Ridgely & Tudor 1989). On 10 July 1997 a male and two females were seen feeding in roadside grasses at the National Guard post at Km 123 (1,440 m) on the Sierra de Lema. Ten minutes later two males and two females were seen feeding in open grassland by the roadside at Luepa (1,450 m), some 10 km further south (CJS).

SLATY FINCH *Haplospiza rustica*

This bamboo specialist is known from Sierra de Perijá in Zulia, the Distrito Federal and Chimantá in Bolívar (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) with recent records from Táchira (Hilty 1999). One was seen at the roadside between Boconó and La Vega (2,800 m), Guaramacal National Park, Trujillo in February 1998 (DAE, JdH, JS), some 200 km from the sites at which it has previously been recorded. The nomadic behaviour of this little known species has been noted elsewhere (Barrajas & Phillips 1994, Hilty 1999). The bird was feeding on grasses in an area dominated by bamboo (*Chusquea* sp.): its preference for seeding *Chusquea* was noted by Hilty (1999), yet stomach contents have so far proven to consist largely of grass seeds (Stiles & Hespénhede 1972, Barrajas & Phillips 1994).

Additional records

The following are more minor altitudinal and geographic range extensions. **Brown Tinamou** *Crypturellus obsoletus*: two individuals heard in Avila National Park (1,450 & 1,490 m) in May 1999 (CJS) and several tape recorded in Macarao National Park (1,000m), Distrito Federal in July 1999 (GAR) represent a slight easterly range extension, the former a new population on a mountain range separated from previous records by the dry valley of Quebrada Tacagua. **Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus*: we have more than thirty records of singles and pairs from pools on both eastern and western slopes of the Mérida Andes up to 2,300 m since November 1995. **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*: a boreal winter resident usually considered to be restricted to the Caribbean coast (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978), we have further inland records. One adult seen close to Altigracia south of Guatopo National Park, Aragua in November 1995 (CJS), and one or two per year for Hato El Frio and Hato El Cedral in the llanos of Apure since 1995 (CJS, DAE, GAR); an unusually high record is of an adult at Laguna Miraflores (2,300 m), La Azulita road, Mérida in January 1998 (DAE, CJS). **Southern Pochard**: *Netta erythrophthalma*: a single male at Hato El Cedral in June 1989 (GAR); although thought not to associate with other species (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) this bird was in a mixed flock of Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna*. **Solitary Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*: a small south-easterly range extension is of two separate records in the Interior Cordillera close to Turgua (1,200 m), Miranda in February 1993 (DAE, GAR). **Black-and-chestnut Eagle** *Oroaetus isidori*: a single bird was observed above Sector El Campamento (2,700 m), Guaramacal National Park, Trujillo in February 1999 (DAE, SLH, JdH). This is a small (40 km) extension northwards along the Venezuelan Andes. **Black Curassow** *Crax alector*: typically a humid forest species, 3-5 individuals were observed in dry forest along the Tumeremo - El Callao road, Bolivar in January 1998 (DAE, SLH). **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*: two pairs appear to have become resident at the Hotel Paso Real in the upper reaches of the Santo Domingo valley (2,900 m), Mérida, since 1996. **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*: a winter plumaged individual was observed near Chichiriviche, Falcón on 10 February 1999 (Richard Coomberg, GAR). There are also unpublished sight records from Paraguaná, Falcón and Zulia (P. Alden, C. Parrish, SLH). **Lilac-tailed Parrotlet** *Touit batavica*: a small flock of 4-6 individuals was seen at the rather low elevation of 60 m along the Turiamo Road near Ocumare, Henri Pittier National Park, Aragua (GAR); this species can also be regularly observed feeding on *Chusia* in the Parque del Este city park (900 m) in Caracas, Miranda (DAE). **Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata*: one was seen along the Boconó - La Vega de Guaramacal road in Guaramacal National Park, Trujillo on 21 February 1998 feeding on flowers at the road side at 2,100 m elevation (DAE, JdH, JS). There are also unpublished specimen records for Cuevas de Carache and Los Palmares, Trujillo (SLH *in litt.*). **Ringed Kingfisher** *Ceryle torquata*: one was seen at Laguna El Blanquito (1,300 m), Yacambú National Park in June 1999 (DAE, RSR) and it has been seen fairly frequently along the Chama and Albarregas in the lower part of Mérida city (1,400 m), close to the

Hotel Belensate, Mérida since 1990 (GAR). **Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Colaptes punctigula*: solitary individuals have been observed sporadically since 1995 at San Antonio de los Altos (1,450 m), Miranda (GAR). **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper** *Lochmias nematura*: this species has regularly been seen below Rancho Grande Biological Station (1,000 m), Henri Pittier National Park, Aragua since 1995 (RS, Mark Van Beirs, GAR, CJS). **Riverside Tyrant** *Knipolegus orenocensis*: one seen in lakeside bushes at Hato El Frio in November 1995 (CJS), another in seasonally flooded savanna at Hato El Cedral in March 1998 (DAE, Edward Sanderman) and a further two observed in damp scrub close to the Matiyure camp at the same ranch in February 1999 (MB, RS, CJS). **Grayish Mourner** *Rhytipterna simplex*: although previously recorded north of the Orinoco river in Monagas state by Boesman (1995), we present a small northerly range extension of one seen and tape recorded on the basin of the Caripe River (245 m), El Guácharo National Park, Monagas in April 1997 (DAE). **Southern Nightingale Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus*: one observed in semi-deciduous forest at sea level in Morrocoy National Park, Falcón in March 1992 (DAE). **Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*: a single male was observed at Hotel Los Frailes (2,900 m) at the head of the Santo Domingo valley in north-east Mérida in November 1990 (GAR).

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Confirmation of the position of the likely type-locality of *Chalcomitra rubescens stangerii*

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Moore (1995) argued convincingly in favour of Shelley's and Amadon's suggestions that the type-locality of the subspecies of the Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens stangerii* (Jardine) should be taken as Bioko (formerly Fernando Po), Equatorial Guinea, and not the River Niger, Nigeria (Shelley 1876-1880, Amadon 1953). The original designation probably arose as the bird had been collected by the 1841 expedition to the River Niger.

Because the collection of the type was discussed during an account of T.R.H. Thomson's visit with C. G. Roscher to Robert Jamieson's settlement near Bassa-pu (3°43'N, 8°41'E), Bioko (Allen & Thomson 1848), Moore suggested that the type-locality could have been this settlement. However, because the account was assumed to follow a chronological order, she thought that the visit to the settlement had taken place in April 1842, after Dr Stanger had left the island with the specimen in 1841. Moore (pers. comm.) now considers that the assumption about chronological order is unjustified and that Thomson only visited Jamieson's settlement once, so the description of the collection of the bird does refer to the shooting of the type specimen. The settlement, which Thomson and Roscher reached by sea, was stated as being at Shark River near Bassa-Pu, on the northwest coast, not far from Clarence [= Malabo], but Moore was uncertain of its precise position. However, Jamieson's settlement was at John Beecroft's house (*hacienda*) at "New Town" and is illustrated in Martin del